



California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

Communications Assistance Packet for Districts/Schools

Section VI — California English Language Development (CELDT) Program Highlights

Masters for Overheads and Online Presentations

April 2004

prepared by the
California Department of Education



California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

Program Highlights

Updated April 2004
California Department of Education

Legal Authorization

The California English Language Development Test (CELDT):

- Was instituted by Assembly Bill 748 Escutia (Chapter 936/1997)
- Was expanded and refined by Senate Bill 638 Alpert (Chapter 678/1999)
- Is contained in *Education Code* sections 313, 60810, and 60812
- Is part of federal law, No Child Left Behind, Title III, requiring an annual English proficiency assessment

Legal Requirements

State law requires school districts to:

- Give initial assessments to students who have a home language other than English
 - Within 30 calendar days of first enrollment in a California school
 - To identify students who are English learners
- Give annual assessments to English learners
 - To monitor progress in acquiring English
 - Until they become fluent English proficient (FEP)

Note: Parent “opt-outs” are not allowed for the CELDT (initial or annual)

Annual Assessment Window

The annual CELDT assessment window, from July 1 through October 31, was:

- Established by State Board of Education (SBE) and State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2000
- Based on input from school district administrators, representing 70 percent of state's English learners

Test Content—Structure

Skill areas tested:

- Listening and speaking
 - Kindergarten through grade twelve

- Reading and writing
 - Grades two through twelve

Test Content—Structure

Listening:

- Following oral directions
- “Teacher talk”
- “Extended listening comprehension”

Test Content—Structure

Speaking:

- Oral vocabulary
- Speech functions
- “Choose and give reasons”
- Four-picture narrative

Test Content—Structure

Reading:

- Word analysis
- Fluency and reading vocabulary
- Reading comprehension
- Literary analysis

Test Content—Structure

Writing:

- Grammar and structure
- Writing sentences
(strategies and applications)
- Writing a paragraph
(strategies and applications)

Estimated Testing Time

- Individually administered:
 - Speaking — 10 minutes

- Group administered:
 - Listening, reading, and writing — 2 hours

Test Administration/Scoring

CELDT examiners and scorers must be:

- Proficient speakers of standard English
- Trained in CELDT administration workshops

Note: It is recommended, but not required, that classroom teachers administer the CELDT.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities:

- Use test variations (such as accommodations/modifications) as specified in Individualized Education Programs (IEP) or 504 Plans*

** Special Education Accommodations/Modifications for California Statewide Assessments matrix is available on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el>.*

Students with Disabilities

Students with severe cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the CELDT:

- Use alternate assessment(s) as defined in students' IEP or 504 Plans to determine English language proficiency*

** IEP team must review results of the alternate assessment(s) and CELDT to determine student's proficiency level.*

Proficiency Levels

In May 2001, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved cut scores for five proficiency levels:

- Beginning
- Early intermediate
- Intermediate
- Early advanced
- Advanced

Proficiency Levels

Students receive:

- An overall English proficiency level
- Proficiency levels for each skill area:
 - Listening/speaking
 - Reading
 - Writing

Using Initial CELDT Assessment Results

- School districts use initial CELDT data as primary source for identifying English learners.
- Districts also may use other information if available to supplement CELDT data.

Initial Identification Criteria

Student is identified as an English learner if:

- Overall score is below early advanced

or

- Overall score is early advanced or higher, **but** one or more skill area scores are below intermediate

Initial Identification Criteria

Student is identified as fluent English proficient (FEP) if:

- Overall score is early advanced or higher
- and**
- Each skill area score is intermediate or higher

Using Annual CELDT Results

Annual CELDT assessment results are used:

- To monitor students' progress in acquiring English language skills
- As one criterion in reclassifying students to fluent English proficient (FEP)

Reclassifying English Learners

School districts are to develop and implement a process for reclassifying English learners to FEP that:

- Reflects state law (*Education Code* Section 313d)
- May follow guidelines approved by the SBE in September 2002

Reclassification Guidelines

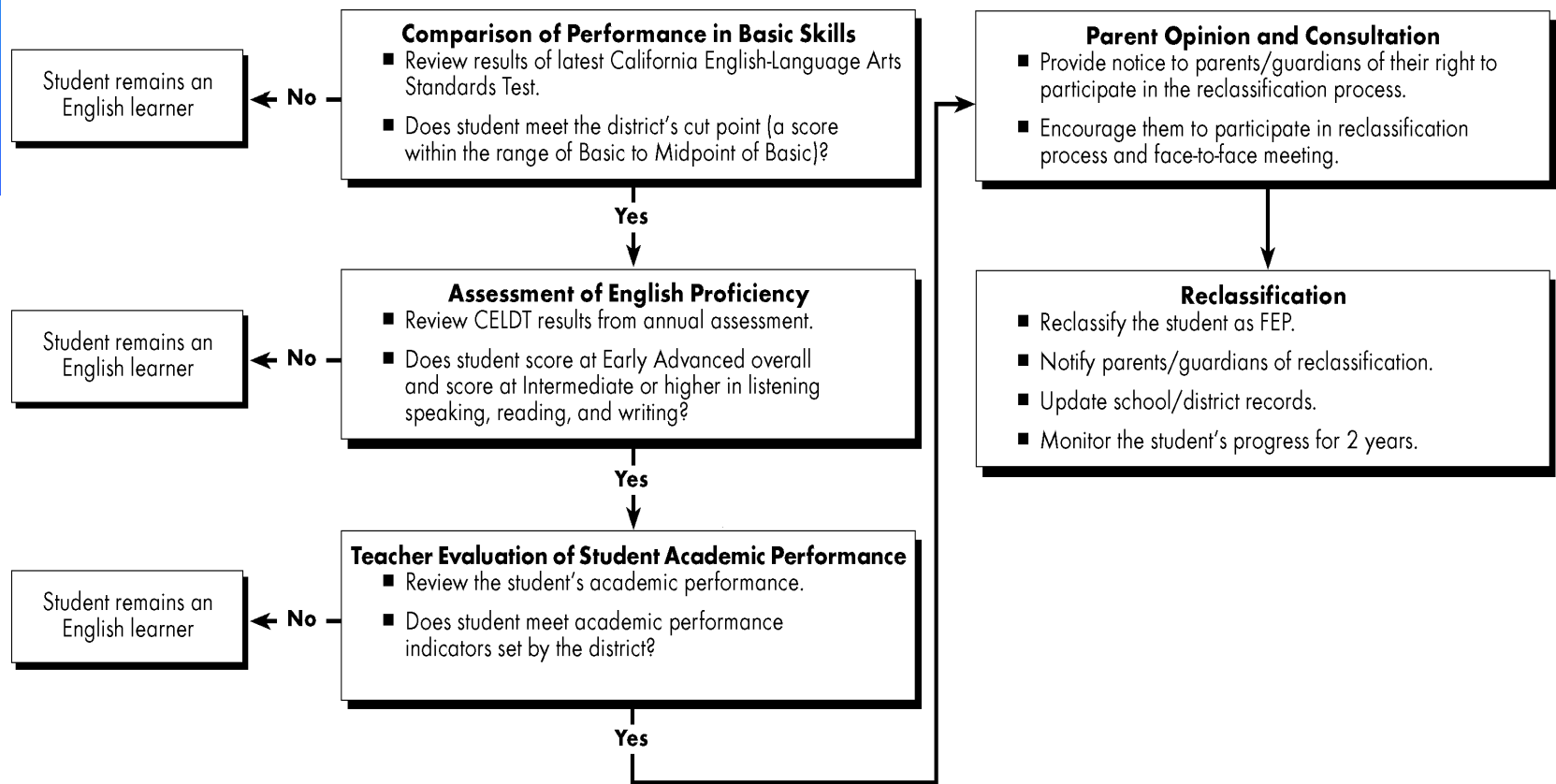
The four criteria required for reclassification are:

- Assessment of English language proficiency, using the CELDT
- Teacher evaluation
- Parental opinion and consent
- Comparison of performance in basic skills

Education Code Section 313

Decision Guide: Reclassifying English Learners

The chart below illustrates how the four criteria can be used by districts/schools to evaluate an English learner's readiness for reclassification to fluent English proficient.



Reporting CELDT Results

- School districts are to inform parents of their student's assessment results within 30 calendar days after receipt from the test publisher.
- School, school district, county, and state results are posted on the CDE Web site at *<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el>* annually:
 - November, initial assessment
 - March, annual assessment

For More Information...

- Call your district CELDT and/or school CELDT Coordinators
- Use your county office support staff

For More Information...

- English Language Development Standards
- Program/Policy
- Regulations

California Department of Education:

- CELDT office: (916) 445-8420
- Web site: *<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el>*

For More Information...

- Test Materials
- Shipping
- Logistics
- Scoring

Test Publisher:

- CELDT Service Line
1(800) 994-8594
- Web site
<http://www2.ctb.com/state/ca/celdt>